

DRAFT

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTELY HELD PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON MONDAY 26th APRIL 2021 AT 7.30PM

via Zoom platform as per legislation contained within section 79 of the Coronavirus Act 2020

Present: Cllrs. C. Whithear (Chair), M. Brake, T. Pepper, P. Hopkins,
J. Tristram, P. Sauvage, A. Welch-Thornton, M. Salter

(remotely)

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk), DCC Cllr. M. Shaw
(remotely)

Members of Public: 4
(remotely)

The Chair welcomed Councillors, to the Council's Zoom virtual remote meeting, made necessary by the current CV-19 situation which requires social distancing measures. He advised Councillors that the meeting is being audio recorded but that the audio recording will be erased once the draft minutes of the meeting are approved at the next meeting.

OPEN SESSION

A parishioner raised concerns about Planning Application Item 10a and the business use impact within the centre of the village. Also, the extent of the accommodation in relation to the associated planning application Item 10b on the same site.

The applicant for both applications explained the need, the limited extent and nature of the proposed business activity /use and also the reason and need for the accommodation which was proposed. The applicant for planning application Item 10c explained the need and reasoning for the proposed replacement dwelling.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

EDDC Cllr. H. Parr

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr. Hopkins in Item 10d.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 15th March 2021

The minutes were declared a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Cllr. Brake seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with the Wheelwrights who had advised that they had started work on the new Haycart and that they would let him know later this week when it was expected to be completed.

5. **Reports**

a) **Police**

No report received

b) **District and County Councillors:**

DCC Cllr. Shaw had already sent a written report which had been circulated and published on the website. He said that there was nothing further to report.

EDDC Parr had submitted a written report which had been circulated.

c) **Clerk – New Website**

Nothing to report

d) **Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group**

Cllr. Whithear advised that one request for a prescription pick up had been received and dealt with. The support group was ready and prepared to deal with any further requests.

e) **Highways Matters**

The Clerk reported that the Highways Officer had inspected the problems in Mill Lane and included them on the contractors work schedule for repair as a safety defect.

It was reported by persons at the meeting that there were potholes at the junction of Fern Lane with the A35. The Chair advised them to report the potholes to Highways directly using the DCC Highways online report a problem.

f) **Any Other Reports**

None

6. **To consider any matters pertaining to Coronavirus and Offwell Parish**

No matters raised.

7. **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that EDDC had advised that due to rising costs the annual collection cost of emptying the dog bin three times a week would increase to £270.00 plus VAT as from the 1st April 2021.

The Clerk had received an update on the new childrens playground being constructed at the Village Hall. The surface had just before the hot spell been covered with top soil and sown with grass seed. They were waiting for the grass to grow before the safety matting can be laid and the playground opened.

The Clerk had received an email from the Regional Fraud Protect Advisor employed by the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit, this being a Home Office funded, Law Enforcement body serving all the police force areas in the South West of England. As part of their mission to help protect people from fraud, he was offering free fraud safety presentations (virtual or in person). Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk contact him to arrange for a virtual presentation

to be held in the near future followed at a later date when it is Covid 19 safe by an in person presentation for those with no internet connection or computer.

8. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that there is £6,772.48 in the current account (not allowing for any payments to be approved at this meeting)

There is £112.09 in the CIL Account.

b) Expenditure to be approved for which bills have been received

1) Payment of £318.52 for the Clerk's salary for the month of April 2021

2) Payment of £8.20 to HMRC for PAYE

3) Payment of £14.39 to A Jenkins (Clerk) Reimbursement for ZOOM IT Platform Monthly Charge purchased on Clerk's personal card)

4) Payment of £375.60 to Community Heartbeat Trust for new Battery and Pads for the defibrillator.

Payments proposed by Cllr. Brake, seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

c) PTFA Funding application

Deferred to the next meeting.

9. 2020/21 AGAR

The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit had now been completed and that the AGAR would be included on the agenda for consideration and approval at the Annual Council meeting.

10. Planning applications

a) 21/0844/FUL - Ty Croeso Offwell Honiton EX14 9RY

Construction of garden studio/office and decking to enable business enterprise

Proposed by Cllr. Tristram, seconded by Cllr. Brake that the Council support this application. All in favour

b) 21/0886/FUL - Ty Croeso Offwell Honiton EX14 9RY

Construction of replacement dwelling and detached garage with accommodation above

Proposed by Cllr. Tristram, seconded by Cllr. Pepper that the Council support this application. The majority in favour.

c) 21/0963/FUL - Stonewick Offwell Honiton EX14 9SB

Proposed replacement dwelling

Proposed by Cllr. Brake, seconded by Cllr. Sauvage that the Council support this application. All in favour

Cllr. Hopkins left the meeting at this point and was put in the waiting room due to the declared interest in the following Item 10d.

d) 21/0836/FUL - Eastleigh Farm Offwell Honiton EX14 9SE

Agricultural building to provide livestock accommodation and storage of agricultural machinery and commodities

Proposed by Cllr. Tristram, seconded by Cllr. Brake that the Council support this application. All in favour

Cllr. Hopkins rejoined the meeting at this point.

11. Virtual Meetings & Decision Making Post 6th May 2021

See item 13

12. Annual Parish Meeting

DCC Cllr. Shaw confirmed that he would be attending.

13. Annual Council Meeting

The Clerk advised that the High Court judgement in relation to the legality of virtual remote meetings taking place under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 was expected on Wednesday 28th April. If the judgement ruled that there was no legal provision, then remote virtual meetings could not be legally held from the 7th May 2021. The Council would then either have to resume holding face to face meetings or alternatively delegate decision making to the Clerk as the proper officer working in consultation with the Chair. Such delegation is allowable under the Local Government Act 1972. The Chair and Clerk feel that it would not be safe at present to revert back to face to face meetings, so the agenda for the Annual Meeting will include a Scheme of Delegation for consideration and adoption if it is necessary following the High Court Judgement.

14. Councillor email addresses

The Clerk advised that he was still investigating for an email hosting package which would be suitable for the Council.

15. Date and Time of Next Meetings

The next meeting is the Annual Parish meeting on the 28th April 2021 at 7.00pm

The next Council meeting is the Annual Council meeting on the 5th May 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.36pm.